

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Municipal Police Training Academy**

**Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus**

**1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865-4585**

**Telephone: (401) 722-5808 — Fax: (401) 722-3151**

**Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell Lieutenant Scott N. Raynes**

**Commissioner, Department of Public Safety Executive Director**

**Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police Municipal Police Training Academy**

**Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 20, 2014**

**1. Welcome and Roll Call**

**Chief Anthony Pesare called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:05 a.m. on November 20, 2014 at RI Municipal Police Training Academy, Lincoln, RI.**

**Chief Pesare asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Edward Mello, Lt. Colonel Karen Pinch, Chief David Palmer and Shawn Brown.**

**Absent from the meeting today is Colonel Steven O'Donnell who has authorized Lt. Colonel Pinch to serve as his proxy. Also present were Lieutenant Scott Raynes, David Ricciarelli, Mr. Richard B. Woolley,**

**Captain Joseph Philbin, Donna Lavalley, Mr. Paul Dutra, Danica Iacoi, and Lieutenant David Bissonnette-Middletown PD.**

## **2. Approval of the minutes**

**Chief Pesare asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting dated August 21, 2014. Chief Mello made a motion to accept the minutes of August 21, 2014; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, the motion carries.**

## **3. Plaque Presentation to (ret) Captain Ernest Quaary, Jr.**

**Lieutenant Raynes stated that Captain Quarry will be in attendance at the Graduation ceremony and the presentation will be made at that time.**

## **4. Use of Force Curriculum change**

**Lieutenant Raynes began the discussion by stating the Academy is fortunate enough to have the best Use of Force Instructors teaching our recruit classes. The current curriculum is based on a three-part standard and this newly implemented curriculum change is a stimulus-based phase which adds an active stimulus and transitions from the initial assault to the ground to custody. He stated that the National Guard has donated hundreds of pieces of equipment to include headgear, boxing gloves, chest protectors, shin pads, etc. Lt. Raynes has witnessed this curriculum change and feels it is a vital addition to the current curriculum and highly recommends it. Lt. Bissonnette of the Middletown P.D. added that this teaches them how to react to the threat. He stated that there are ten certified instructors who have all gone through the LOCKUP program. Lt. Bissonnette is the lead instructor and the others are from Middletown, Tiverton,**

**Narragansett, Pawtucket & N. Providence PD's. Two of them are professional kick-boxers. There was some discussion on injury risks and medical training in the case of an emergency and they have all received this training when they were LOCKUP certified. Lt. Colonel Pinch stated she may be able to get the instructors to go through a "webinar" training through the Interscholastic League or the Injury Prevention. Chief Mello asked when the changes are approved by the POST, are Providence PD and the RISP obligated to comply and Lt. Raynes answered yes. Lt. Bissonnette stated that the new curriculum has been used in the last two recruit classes and the effects have been dramatic. Paul Dutra stated from the liability perspective, a study was done and looked at 10 years of data and excessive force was Number Two. The observation was that officers react first to what is on their duty belt within reach. If they were more comfortable with their abilities, the level of force wouldn't be escalated. Mr. Brown asked if there is any continued education for this and David Ricciarelli stated we provided 16-20 workshops per year.**

**Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the Use of Force curriculum change and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, the motion passes.**

## **5. Psychological Testing discussion**

**Lt. Raynes stated that Chief Mello asked that this item be added to the agenda. Chief Mello stated that he has much respect for Dr. Gallagher and the work that she does; however, he is concerned that**

she unilaterally dictates what criteria we follow and he is not certain as to why we rely on one facility for Psychological testing. He asked if we can develop a standard to follow and if a doctor wants to apply to do the testing, can the POST entertain and make a list of applicable doctors. He is concerned about having no other options. Lt. Raynes stated that he has the same concerns. Dr. Gallagher has gone above and beyond to help; however, she is overwhelmed and having trouble keeping people on the staff. He is also concerned about testing the same person a number of times. Chief Mello stated that she states she follows the National standards but we are disadvantaged because we rely on one vendor. Lt. Colonel Pinch added that has been approached by a psychologist to become a vendor and she agrees that having another option would be great. Paul Dutra noted that any search request should also include testing for Fit For Duty. Chief Pesare suggested that the IACP has a psychological services section and we should reach out and see if they developed standards for psychological testing of police officers. If so, we can mirror those and promulgate them. Chief Pesare will work on that with Lt. Colonel Pinch and Lt. Raynes. Chief Pesare stated he will contact Dr. Gallagher and explain the discussion. Mr. Woolley stated to be careful of dueling experts and Danica Iacoi stated that the standards through the IACP will be very important. Chief Mello added that the process should include an appeal process.

## **6. Request for Approval of Firearms Qualification courses-Lieutenant Scott Raynes**

- **Rhode Island Airport Police**
- **Bristol PD**
- **Cranston PD**
- **Middletown PD**
- **Narragansett PD**
- **Tiverton PD**
- **West Warwick PD**
- **Wyatt Detention Center**

**Lieutenant Raynes stated that after a review by himself and Captain Phil Gould, all departments have met all the requirements for re-certification of their Firearms Qualification courses. A vote should be separate due to Chief Pesare's department being one of the courses up for approval.**

**Mr. Brown made a motion to approve all of the above-named Firearms courses, with the exception of Middletown P.D. Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries.**

**Lt. Colonel Pinch made a motion to approve the Middletown Police Department's Firearms course. Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor and two recusals (Chief Pesare and Mr. Brown), 3-0, motion carries.**

**.**

## **7. Update on Continuing Education**

**David Ricciarelli stated that 1409 have been trained to date with 72 programs on the books. Chief Pesare stated that a recent study**

**shows a dramatic increase in the effectiveness of traffic stops/searches and that is all related to the training the officers are receiving.**

#### **8. Update on Class 2014-II**

**Lieutenant Raynes stated the class is now in Week 18. We lost two recruits in Week 16 due to the Use of Force failure. Graduation is set for December 19th.**

#### **9. Update on Class 2015-I**

**Lt. Raynes stated that we have requests for about 60+ seats in the January class. Colonel O'Donnell has agreed to give the Academy an additional trooper temporarily to assist with the anticipated large class. We have two CTO's in place: Officer Curley from Warwick PD and Officer Lavallee from Newport PD. The P/T testing will be November 30th and January 5, 2015 is Day One.**

**Captain Philbin gave an update on the RISP process where 186 oral boards are done and they are trying to put 45 in the September, 2015 class. He also gave an update on the Unified Academy. They have met with the architectural firms regarding the bidding process. LADD Center is the proposed site. There is no money budgeted for this in 2016 but there is a percentage proposed for the 2017 fiscal year.**

#### **10. Adjournment**

**Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn the November 20, 2014 POST meeting and Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Donna M. Lavallee**

**Administrative Assistant**